

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Officer Kenneth Ray
Moats of the Maryville Police Department.

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Officer Kenneth Ray Moats of the Maryville Police Department was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of the General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on August 25, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a respected veteran of the Maryville Police Department with nine and one-half years of service, Officer Moats truly enjoyed being a police officer, and he evidenced uncommon dedication to his duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of his profession; and

WHEREAS, Officer Moats performed his appointed duties in an admirable manner that distinguished him as a credit to both his community and his profession; Maryville was undoubtedly made a better and safer place to live during his service; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of August 25, 2016, when Officer Moats was killed as he and his partner responded to a domestic call

involving a weapon while they were in the area conducting a follow-up on a narcotics investigation; he is the first Maryville police officer to be killed in the line of duty since 1981; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Maryville, and indeed the entire State, have felt the deep pain produced by this terrible and wasteful loss of one of our best and brightest law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Blount County and 2002 graduate of Heritage High School, Officer Moats began his law enforcement career in December 2005 after his graduation from Walters State Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, he began his career with the Maryville Police Department as a patrolman in February 2007; in June 2010, he was assigned to traffic deputy as a motor officer; and

WHEREAS, described as a "stellar" officer by Maryville Police Chief Tony Crisp, in May 2016, following years of hard work, Officer Moats fulfilled his lifelong dream when he was assigned to the Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force as a narcotics investigator; and

WHEREAS, loved and respected by all, he was selected as a Readers' Choice Police Officer by the readers of Maryville's daily newspaper, *The Daily Times*, in 2011; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to his profession and his community, in January 2016, Officer Moats began his tenure as president of the Fraternal Order of Police Bud Allison Memorial Lodge #9; he was also passionate about the Shop With a Cop program; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ray Moats cherished his family, which includes his wife, Britteni Nikole Moats, sons, Kamron Moats and Tyson Moats, and daughter, Mackenzie Burger; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his father and stepmother, Kenneth and Kathleen Moats; his mother and stepfather, Lisa R. and Donald Burns; his grandmother, Alma Ogle; his brother, Kristian Moats; his sister, Katelyn Moats; his step-sisters, Donna Bragg and Brittany Watson; his brother-in-law, Joey Whitehead; his aunts, Teresa Headrick, Cathy Barbra, Laura Campbell, and Michelle Moats Perez; and many other extended family members, including his brothers and sisters in blue; and

WHEREAS, Officer Kenneth Ray Moats leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of this exceptional police officer and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that on the behalf of a grateful public, we honor the memory and celebrate the life of Officer Kenneth Ray Moats of the Maryville Police Department, an exemplary law enforcement professional who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting his community and fellow citizens. We express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family, colleagues, and friends of Officer Moats.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.